

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Advisory Action mailed June 5, 2003. At the time of the Advisory Action, Claims 1-85 were pending in the Application. Applicant amends Claims 1, 3, 38, 48-49, and 84-85. Applicant also cancels Claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, such that certain limitations may be included in the above-identified independent claims. The amendments are a result of a phone interview conducted between attorneys for Applicant and Examiner Burgess on June 17, 2003. The amendments are not necessarily the result of any prior art reference and thus do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Furthermore, the amendments are not related to patentability issues and only further clarify subject matter already present. All of Applicant's amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner had previously made a series of rejections based on a number of references (and various proposed combinations in the context of a §103 analysis), the references including: U.S. Patent No. 6,434,616 issued to Urano et al. ("*Urano*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,243,748 issued to Arai ("*Arai*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,961,595 issued to Kawagoe ("*Kawagoe*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,407,997 issued to DeNap ("*DeNap*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,363,072 issued to Furuichi ("*Furuichi*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,065,061 issued to Blahut et al. ("*Blahut*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,125,390 issued to Touboul ("*Touboul*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,187 issued to Subramaniam et al. ("*Subramaniam*"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,172,980 issued to Flanders et al. ("*Flanders*"). However, these references are no longer germane to the patentability of the pending claims. This is a result of the discussion involving Examiner Burgess: the discussion evaluating the applicability and appropriateness of such references. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 and 17-85 are allowable over these references (and any combinations thereof) because the claims are patentably distinct from each of them, as resolved by attorneys for Applicant and the Examiner in the telephone interview identified above. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are allowable and notice to this effect is respectfully requested in the form of a full allowance of Claims 1-15 and 17-85.

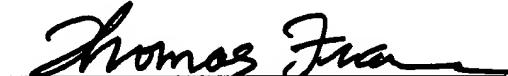
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clear and apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-15 and 17-85.

Applicant submits herewith a check in the amount of \$750.00 to satisfy the request for continued examination fee of 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e), and a check for \$110.00 to cover the one (1) month Extension of Time fee.. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts, L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact its attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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